

ALUMNEWS

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Teresa Delaney at the law offices of George Geraghty

VCC ALUMNI ARE GETTING INVOLVED

Several of our members wrote to a provincial government representative to express their concerns about VCC's funding. This initiative marks a beginning for VCC Alumni. There are three important ways that members of this Association can help strengthen our College.

The first is to continue to make our concerns for the College known in Victoria.

The second is to influence public opinion for VCC by making known to others whatever contribution VCC may have

made toward our own accomplishments.

The third way we can support VCC is to develop a strong alumni association so that we may work together as a group in support of our community college. Together we can make a difference. Members who have time to contribute to the activities of the Association should contact our office at 875-1131.

NEW CAREER IS OPENING DOORS FOR VVI GRAD

by Colleen Smith

At the age of 23 Teresa Delaney clearly had a good head start for a career in the food service industry or in retailing. She had managed a Sambos restaurant in her home town of Vernon, B.C. and had held positions in restaurants and retail outlets in Vancouver. However, Teresa wanted something different.

With no prior experience in office work or typing she enrolled in VCC's Legal Secretarial Program at Vancouver Vocational Institute. She says she started the program with a typing speed of 15 words per minute. The instructors were concerned she may not make it. It seems funny now, Teresa says, her typing speed is 90 to 100 words per minute.

I visited Teresa at the law offices of George Geraghty, where she has just been promoted to the position of Paralegal. She has been with Geraghty for two years. She says the training she received from VVI made it possible for her to get in the door as a Legal Secretary. The on-the-job training which followed has made it possible for her to move up to a position of greater responsibility. "George is a great boss. He teaches everything that he can possibly teach."

"I feel good about the work I do. I feel like I'm, in a way, helping people. I provide information to people when they are not sure if they want to go to a lawyer — they are not sure what a lawyer is all about."

Teresa feels the negative stereotype attributed to lawyers is unfair. "They're caring people", she says. "They do make large amounts of money because they do large amounts of work."

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READ ALL ABOUT IT...

Bulletin Board

Swap Meet — Plan to participate in this association fundraiser Saturday, September 24th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the King Edward Campus call 875-1131 for details.

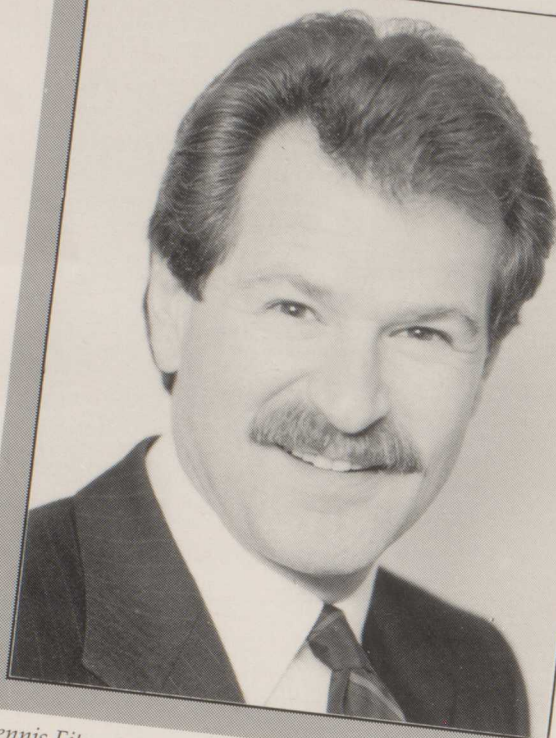
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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Dennis Fitzpatrick, President, VCC Alumni Association

Dear Friends:

Under the direction of my predecessors, Bruna Giacomazzi and Sylvia Russell, our Alumni Association has made major strides in membership development and has built a body of support for the activities of the Association. The Association has been able to get off on a solid footing, largely due to substantial financial support from the College.

The College covered more than 90 percent of last year's operating budget. Unfortunately, the financial difficulties now being experienced by the College are impacting on its ability to fund the Association. Consequently, the College will only be funding about 50 percent of the projected operating costs for this year.

My first priority as your new president has been to tackle this problem. Your Board has responded positively to this challenge. While it has been recognized that some reduction in service will be necessary in the short term, in the long term we are preparing to actively raise funds to cover our operating costs.

We have established a fundraising committee and we have decided to institute a voluntary membership fee in time for the next fiscal year. You will be hearing more about these activities in the weeks and months to come. I encourage you to support these initiatives in whatever ways that you can.

Sincerely,

Dennis Fitzpatrick
President, VCC Alumni Association

GALLAGHER'S NOTEBOOK...

What is VCC's funding problem? VCC President Paul Gallagher responded to this question at the recent Annual General Meeting of the Alumni Association.

Gallagher said, "The College is Booming." VCC is serving 45,000 people annually at

campuses are doing. Hundreds of people who want to attend Langara in September will not be accommodated. More than 2,000 people are on waiting lists for programs at VVI, and King Edward Campus turned away three or four hundred people at registration last April.

do "given that we do not have enough resources to do what we want to do, what our community wants us to do, and what we might say our government wants us to do."

VCC's President says the College can no longer extend itself and still maintain the quality of its services. He says the College is over extended, and what management is opting to do is maintain the quality of its service even if it means a reduction of services.

According to Gallagher in his June speech, current projections on revenues and expenditures based on a no-frills base budget for the same level of services for 1987/88, still leave the College with a projected shortfall of 2.3 million dollars.

Gallagher says the College has been seeking funds to maintain its present level of service. So far government offers of additional funding have only been directed to programs which will increase the level of service offered.

Gallagher says, "nearly every institution in the province faces the same thing but not to the same degree. There has been a long history where this institution has received less than its fair share of the total pot available for colleges, institutes, universities and post-secondary education.

According to Gallagher, while VCC is booming, "The core or the bread and butter of the College is at risk."

Gallagher says the College has done a great many creative and imaginative things to do more with less. However, he says the College must now decide what to



Paul Gallagher, VCC President, at the Annual General Meeting

some 40 locations, through up to 200 programs. The international activity of the College has never been greater, and VCC is into joint venturing with the private sector.

Gallagher says the excessive demand for VCC's programs is a credit to what the

BUSY YEAR ENDS



Alumni Smiles greet guests at VCC Day
Susan Toplak and Gail Urquhart



Colin Hansen, V.P. for the Asia Pacific Foundation, gave Keynote Speech at the A.G.M.



Sylvia Russell (Past President) represented the Alumni in a panel at VCC Day



A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES

by Carole Wilson

Have you ever wanted to change jobs, live in a foreign country, or try something new? David Kos found his adventure through the Vancouver Community College International Education Program.

David, a B.C. college instructor, has just returned from a teaching post in Japan. He is pictured here with some of his Japanese students at the Tokushima Bunri University where he taught English for a year on behalf of VCC.

I had the opportunity of speaking with David about his stay in Tokushima City on Shikoku. The conversation was an animated affair, filled with facts on Japan, as well as his observations on the Japanese lifestyle.

The Japanese system has very strict rules

A teacher myself, I was interested to find out if the Japanese Education System was as rigid as reported. David confirmed this saying that great pressure is placed on students from Kindergarten through high school unlike our system, which gets progressively harder as students progress to college and university. Once students are selected to a university they rest and relax, as graduation, and a position in the work world are virtually assured.

David had to come to terms with cultural differences before he could reach his students. One impression is captured in the phrase, "The male who stands up, will be hammered down," meaning the Japanese do not want to stand out or be singled out in a group.



David Kos with the students of Tokushima's English Class

as to which jobs are available to men or women. For example, the Communitative English Program David taught prepared students for jobs as secretaries, juku (tutorial school), or tour guides. With these jobs filled almost solely by women, you will not be surprised to know David's students were 99% women.

He found the students polite, rather shy, and not particularly willing to do homework.

David eagerly offered tips for teachers who are attracted to a posting in Japan, "Go over with an open mind, don't make assumptions, and carry along a good sense

of humour." He says to expect frustrations and excitement all mixed up together. Japanese society historically is not open and endearing; it is rather a polite, but very private society. He quotes Robert Graves who once said, "I have a new understanding of my confusion". In David's case the confusion being the differences between the two cultures of Canada and Japan.

David says to help people on overseas postings deal with this confusion, "VCC should set up a universal orientation course or centre in how to deal with life in Japan."

Now that he is back at home David is looking to establish a program for International Students where he lives on Salt Spring Island. The focus of this program would be on environmental issues and English as a Second Language training. David says while in Japan, "I found environmental education and international understanding; the two areas the Japanese knew the least about."

David has also taught in Africa and Asia. He has 12 years of teaching experience in Canada. He is now transforming his international experiences into a fictional novel set in Japan or Asia. When asked if he would take another overseas posting — his answer was a resounding "yes".

The International Education Program provides an exchange for students and instructors. VCC campuses currently receive foreign students from 20 countries. This program is a revenue producer for the College.

While still in its infancy, the VCC program for International Education is clearly an emerging and necessary link to the Pacific Rim countries. At a time when world trade growth is focussed heavily on the Pacific, these links serve to benefit Canada as a whole.

HONORARY MEMBER RETIRES



Carole Wilson makes presentation to Dr. J.J. Denholm

Dr. J.J. Denholm, who was made an Honorary Member of the Association at our recent Annual General meeting, has announced his retirement. Jock Denholm, the Principal of Langara Campus, is the longest-serving senior administrator at VCC. He first joined the College as

Principal of Student Services at King Edward in 1966.

Dr. Denholm has been an active supporter of our Alumni Association. He will be missed but not forgotten. Happy Retirement J.J.!!!

ITS SOUNDWAVE



VCC Students in Hawaii

Soundwave is the vocal jazz ensemble which performs under the direction of V.C.C. Instructor Peter Taylor. The group, which is composed wholly of King Edward music students, has just returned from a performance at the International

Festival of Music in Hawaii. These students are so talented that they were recently invited to provide background vocals for John Denver's new album. The album is scheduled for release this month.

THE WRITE WAY TO SUCCESS

This fall, VCC Continuing Education is offering two new Certificate programs:

The Designation in Writing Program offers participants the opportunity to hone their writing skills through a syllabus designed to move them naturally from training in the basics to a variety of more advanced courses in three areas: creative writing, professional writing, and business writing.

The Gemology Program is a 2-year program that leads to the Canadian Gemological Association — Diploma in Gemology, and Fellowship in the Canadian Gemological Association. This course

covers the scientific and aesthetic aspects of Gemology.

The Continuing Education Certificate Programs have been conceived to provide immediate enhanced professional training for those seeking advancement in their chosen field.

For information on these and other C.E. Certificate programs, pick up a copy of the Continuing Education Fall '88 calendar. Or call 875-8200.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

FLORA A. MARGUART: VVI Long Term Care Aide upgrade 1987, has recently completed a second programme at VVI on the care of the mentally fragile elderly. She is the Co-ordinator of Care for the Special Care Unit at the Icelandic Care Home. She is married with two children.

NICOLETTA RICCI: Langara Arts and Sciences 1982, furthered her education by going to UBC and graduating with a Bachelor of Physical Education and teacher training degree. She is currently the Faculty Advisor in the Physical Education and Recreation Department at UBC.

MANUEL PEREDA: King Edward Campus 1980, English as a Second Language, has completed a B.A. at UBC, is now working as an Employment Program Co-ordinator at MOSAIC. He also works as an interpreter, translator, and language instructor.

COLIN SAVAGE: Langara Arts and Sciences 1987, is entering his second year of environmental engineering at UBC. He will be graduating in the Spring of 1991. He is also employed as a staff news photographer for the Vancouver Sun.

Teresa continued from pg. 1

It has been a real pleasure to get to know Teresa through VCC's Alumni Association. She has been a very active member, pitching in wherever she is needed. Teresa seems quiet at first, but she is assertive where it counts. She says she likes to participate in things that allow her to meet lots of different kinds of people and expand her base of contacts.

Teresa is also active in a church choir, and a swing choir in addition to taking private singing lessons. She has performed with amateur theatre groups and is an avid soccer player.

When I last spoke to her, she was planning to spend her holidays teaching singing at childrens' camps.

For the future Teresa says she likes office administration. She hopes in the long term, more experience combined with further education, will enable her to move to a position with greater responsibility. Her outlook is positive. "You can be whatever you want to be." About the worldly things beyond her control Teresa says, "Things happen regardless of what we are going to say about them. It's how you deal with the things that are happening that is important."

WHAT IS NEW IN YOUR LIFE?

Keep in touch. Write and tell us about new jobs, accomplishments, degrees earned, marriages, and births. Also be sure to send a change of address if you have moved.

ALUMNEWS

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Alumnews is published by the Vancouver Community College Alumni Association. The Association represents former students and graduates of Langara, Vancouver Vocational Institute, and King Edward Campus, as well as the Continuing Education and International Education Programs. Readers comments are welcome. Please write in care of the Executive Director, Colleen Smith.

